

PANDEMIC RESOURCE DIRECTORY LISTING

Access to Hospice Services in New York State

There are 50 certified hospice programs in New York State. Most counties have at least one provider; some counties have more than one. You can access a hospice near you by going to the Hospice and Palliative Care Association of New York State (HPCANYS) website at www.hpcanys.org. Once on the website, you will find a map of the State; if you click on the name of your county, the name and contact information for programs serving that area will be displayed.

When to contact hospice:

- Whenever a patient or family requests hospice
- When a pandemic flu patient is denied ventilator access or withdrawn from a ventilator and is unlikely to survive the illness as a consequence
- When a patient is imminently dying
- Whenever you or one of your colleagues believes that hospice expertise and support would benefit the patient and/or the family
- When a patient has clearly defined written Advance Directives requesting comfort measures only
- When a patient or family indicate they want/need to discuss end of life care preferences
- When prognosis is unclear and there is a need to ascertain patient/family preferences should the disease becomes life-limiting

What hospice can do in the acute care setting:

- Conduct a pre-hospice visit to determine patient and family needs and to explain the services hospice will provide if invited to do so
- Support the patient and family as they confront the difficult consequences of lack of access to a needed ventilator and/or ventilator withdrawal. Encourage and support discussion about likely consequences of the clinical circumstances and patient and family preferences under those scenarios
- Collaborate with the referring physician and unit staff to implement a tailored hospice plan of care to include medical interventions as well as psycho-social and spiritual supportive services
- Give the patient comfort and the best possible quality of life by assuring excellent pain and symptom management.
- Facilitate transfers for those patients who can be moved to a less intensive setting in the hospital or to an alternate setting outside the hospital including a nursing home, group placement or private residence. Hospice can provide service in all of these settings.
- Attend the dying
- Provide bereavement support for the patient and family in anticipation of and during a death, and for the family for at least one year following the loss.

If your hospital has a palliative care program and you are unsure about contacting hospice, speak with one of your palliative care providers. They will help you make this decision.